

REMARKS

Please note that the attorney docket no. has been changed to INT1P917.

The specification has been amended to correct the informalities pointed out by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 27 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 42-47 have been added. Claims 1-47 remain pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a), citing various references. In rejections to claims 1 and 27, the Examiner cited Richardson (US 5459458) and Will (US 5479408).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claims 1 and 27, Will teaches a two way paging system that allows the receiver of a message to send a response to the sender, where the response may be "chosen from a set provided with the original message, from a preprogrammed set, or composed by the user" (col 3, lines 4-7). Similarly, Richardson teaches a virtual pager that allows the responses that are sent back to the sender to be customized (col 10, lines 9-37). Neither the two way paging system taught by Will nor the virtual pager taught by Richardson teaches someone other than the message recipient programming a message into the recipient's device. Therefore, neither teaches a receiving device that is "operative to generate an indication to said second individual of said first individual's presence with respect to said transmitting device; wherein said indication comprises a message programmed into the receiving device by a programming individual other than said second individual," as recited in claim 1, or a method for intentionally signaling a presence comprising "receiving at said second physical location said presence signal and generating an indication to said second individual of said first

individual's presence; wherein said indication includes a message programmed into a receiving device by a programming individual other than the second individual," as recited in claim 27. As such, claims 1 and 27 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-26 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 28-41 depend from claim 27 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10:

This Application is related to and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application [Number] No. 60/062,144 (attorney docket no. INT1P006+) filed October 9, 1997, incorporated herein by reference. This Application is also related to and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application [Number] No. 60/103,814[_____] (attorney docket no. INT1P011+) entitled METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR REMOTE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS filed October 8, 1998, incorporated herein by reference. This Application is also related to U.S. Patent Application [Numbers] Nos. (a) 09/169,638, now U.S. Patent No. 6,351,271 [(attorney docket no. INT1P018)] entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING LIGHTWEIGHT MESSAGES filed October 9, 1998, (b) 09/169,638 (attorney docket no. INT1P020) entitled ELECTRONIC AUDIO CONNECTION SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING SAME filed October 9, 1998, and (c) 09/169,713, now U.S. Patent No. 6,282,206 [(attorney docket no. INT1P021)] entitled VARIABLE BANDWIDTH COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS all three being incorporated herein by reference.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. An intentional presence system comprising:

a transmitting device at a first physical location that is responsive to a command intentionally initiated by a first individual at said first physical location to develop a presence signal intended for a second individual at a second physical location; and

a receiving device located at said second physical location which is receptive to said presence signal and which is operative to generate an indication to said second individual of said first individual's presence with respect to said transmitting device[.];

wherein said indication comprises a message programmed into the receiving device by a programming individual other than said second individual.

27. A method for intentionally signaling a presence comprising:

transmitting from a first physical location in response to a command intentionally initiated by a first individual at said first physical location a presence signal intended for a second individual at a second physical location; and

receiving at said second physical location said presence signal and generating an indication to said second individual of said first individual's presence [.] ;

wherein said indication includes a message programmed into a receiving device located at said second physical location by a programming individual other than the second individual.